

THIS MEETING DID NOT CONTAIN A PRESENTATION

JJPOC Incarceration Workgroup

April 21st, 2025

1:00 PM - 2:30 PM

Web Based Meeting- Zoom

Attendance

Beth Hamilton
Catherine Foley Geib
Chyann Higgs
Erin Williamson
Eulalia Garcia
Gary Roberge
Indre Fishman
Krystal Rich
Maribel Martinez

Martha Stone
Michael Pierce
Neika Thompson
Patricia Nunez
Sharmese Walcott
Sheron Green
Tasha Hunt
Tina Mitchell

TYJI Staff

Brittany LaMarr
Andrew Zhebrak

Meeting Objectives:

During the April 21st, 2025, Incarceration Workgroup meeting, the Gender Responsive and Conditions of Confinement Subgroups updated the Incarceration Workgroup on their progress. Consequently, there was an update to developments in the Reentry Spreadsheet. Lastly, DOC presented an update on chemical agents in their facilities.

During the February 24th, 2025, Incarceration Workgroup meeting, there was a review of the passed recommendations from the previous JJPOC monthly meeting, discussions on the 2025 workplan, included the creation of a Conditions of Confinement Subgroup, and the transfer of Gender Responsiveness Workgroup to a Subgroup of Incarceration. Lastly, DOC provided an update on the use of chemical agents.

Meeting Summary:

University of New Haven

- Update on Gender Responsiveness Work
 - The Gender Responsiveness Subgroup is focused on the report release from the DCF and developing guidelines and best practices for Gender Responsive DCF Trainings.
 - The Subgroup will also conduct an RFP for landscape analysis that will track historical progress for Gender Responsiveness Work since the late 1990s/early 2000s
- Reentry Spreadsheet Updates
 - There is progress in the Reentry Spreadsheet, the state agencies that are a part of the Reentry Success Plan will discuss the no-cost options.
 - The cost items in the Reentry Spreadsheet are attached to the JJPOC Bill (HB 7250), and are The cost items in the Spreadsheet are attached to the JJPOC Bill, such as the QA Framework,
 - acknowledged the fiscal note associated with it, it's moving along in consideration with the legislation in conjunction with JJPOC Bill
 - Whether there was a cost or not cost – asked for update to no cost items, and whaterhter they're being done, could be doen, 4 state agencies, waiting for 2 more. Once that info is completed, agencies will talk about what they're doing regarding trhe no cost itesm. Idea is to finish completing the Spreadsheet. There are cost items within the plan, and could be passed through this session.
 - QA Framework, the one reentry recommendation as part of the bill is acknowledged the fiscal note associated with it, it's moving along in consideration with the legislation in conjunction with JJPOC Bill
 - DOC – WWithin the next 2 weeks is to implement as much as possible, there are items that are still in the process of boosting such as Credible Messenger or Goggle Program. Youth getting worker permits, etc.
 - Some had no fiscal note attached to it to start with those, anyth
- Conditions of Confinement Subgroup
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 - There is state agency representation, publiuc representation etc. Last tiem they met it was for a workplan for the timeline of the subgroup, will exist 1-2 years. Mainly to look at metrics to build out, create more holistic conditions. Level setting, behind the scenes work that CSSD is doing as well. Marinating and track the reporting requirements for state agencies that already exist, that are reporting out on, understanding before anything else. Fill in before any additional asks. Some of the other items are to build out reporting for chemical agents reports. There would be a template for those questions built in so DOC could see. If there are any updates from DOC for DOJ settelment, that'll be reported.

- One of the focus areas is tracking legislation, data collection, fulfilling reporting requirements, etc. Takes about a year to look at. Getting robust info on chemical report outs. Part 2 – look at settlements and lawsuits and etc.
- Next meeting – getting robust information for chemical agent reports
- Chemical Agent Reports
 - There were 3 incidents. 1st occurred in Gym. Verbal altercation. Teacher intervened, didn't help, so youth had to be separated with chem agents. No injuries. See if anything could be eliminated before occurring. How many youth in facility? - 15 at gym at a time, typically a divider.
 - There was a second occurring in the Hallway, no injury, 2 youthfil offenders that got exposed. 1 Individual who was not following staff direction.
 - March – During school recall in the hallway, 4 youth, 2 youth had a prior interaction out in the community, they got into an argument over what happened in the community, and then 2 more individuals joined in to wrap up fight. 1 youth had an injury to his eye, and he's now treated well. Unit manager has been monitiring all 4 of the youth – they're in the same classroom, but they're interacting fine.
 - How is it screened to reduce risk that yotuh who have interactions in community minimize risk of interacting with someone who they have issue with in community? Some disclose they do, some don't. Family engagement meeting as well to talk to parent, they aren't always forthcoming, some youth aren't open with facility regarding interpersonal issue. Sometimes only after the fact.
 - Contrast that with CSSD – somewhat similar, as kids come in pretrial, they're screened regarding their affiliations, and if they would conflict with anyone, as well as a followup question within 24-48 hours. If they're aware of anyone htey have an issue with, CSSD makes note of it. Cognizant of neihgbordhood affiliations, and decision making of where to palce kids. Kids that are in REGIONS have a meditation and restroative circle to ensure there are no problems. That's worked thus far. DOC is also using restorative circles. Youth are always willing to mediate – some were successful, but some where the issue relights. They aren't always genuine.
- Next Steps
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- Review Recommendations that Passed – From JJPOC Meeting
 - Recommendations 1 and 2
 - The ones passed were for agencies to gather information to establish next steps, especially for ones that require a fiscal note.
 - The chairs are looking to see the current status of families and how the JJPOC and the Incarceration Workgroup meet the different recommendations.
 - Recommendation 3
 - A quality assurance through the Office of Policy and Management (OPM).
- Discussion on Workplan
 - Creation of a Condition of Confinement Subgroup
 - We are looking for volunteers that look at the conditions of confinement, specifically at Manson Youth, asking what data points need to be known and understood for the confinement population.
 - The workgroup discussed how the Conditions of Confinement Subgroup is going to ensure DOC implements structure, consistent measures, and consistent data collection.
 - Sunsetting of Reentry
 - The Reentry Subgroup will have a workgroup meeting to then report back to the Incarceration Workgroup, to ensure every member is receiving critical information. They will also be overseeing the Reentry Success Plan and evaluate the assurance framework from CSSD.
 - The Gender Responsiveness Workgroup will become a subgroup of the Incarceration Workgroup.
- Chemical Agent Report from DOC for the Months of November, December, and January
 - There were three incidents in November. Chemical agents were used when individuals were not compliant with verbal directions in all three separate incidents and no serious injuries were reported.
 - The workgroup discussed why the incidents all happened on first shift, the increase activity of school was deemed a reason why these incidents happened. There were no incidents with repeated individuals.
 - There was no use of chemical agents in December.
 - There was one incident in January.
- Next Steps
 - Email Brittney by Friday March 7th if interested in Conditions for Confinement or Gender Responsiveness Subgroups.



Next Meeting: April 21st, 2025

